



## The FACT Act

For individuals, the chance to get ahead and make a better life often depends on building credit. So many decisions, such as buying a home, financing a car or owning a small business, are made easier by good credit. The **FACT ACT (Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act)**, a federal statute signed into law in December 2003, gives consumers unprecedented tools to fight identity theft and gain control of their credit files so they can better protect themselves and their families.

**Attorney General Lisa Madigan** urges all consumers to take advantage of this new law. Illinoisans work hard to build up good credit histories, and the tools afforded by the **FACT ACT** can help them become better informed about their credit histories and protect the information contained in their credit files.

The **FACT ACT** creates the following new rights for consumers:

All consumers now have the right to receive a copy of their credit reports free of charge each year. Consumers will be able to review their credit reports every year for unauthorized activity, including activity that might be the result of identity theft.

Consumers will only need to make one call to receive advice and protect their credit standing. This single call allows for an initial block on the consumer's credit report for 90 days. Once the victim confirms ID theft occurred, obtains a police report (within 90 days) and provides it to a Credit Reporting Agency, the agency will place an extended alert on all files.

The **FACT ACT** establishes a nationwide system of fraud alerts for consumers to place on their credit files. Credit Reporting Agencies that receive such alerts from customers will now be obliged to follow procedures to ensure that any future requests are by the true consumer, not an identity thief posing as the consumer.

The **FACT ACT** also allows consumers to see their credit scores when applying for a mortgage or home equity loan.

The **Office of the Illinois Attorney General** advises consumers to review their credit files from each of the three largest Credit Reporting Agencies on a yearly basis.

Call for your free credit report today:

**TRANS UNION:** (800) 888-4213 • **EQUIFAX:** (800) 685-1111 • **EXPERIAN:** (888) 397-3742

Please contact the Office of the Illinois Attorney General for more information about your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and other important consumer information:

**[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)**

Chicago  
1-800-386-5438  
TTY: 1-800-964-3013

Springfield  
1-800-243-0618  
TTY: 877-844-5461

Carbondale  
1-800-243-0607  
TTY: 877-675-9339